

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAGU 02903 262307 Z

70-62

ACTION ARA-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PM-03 PRS-01 DODE-00 RSR-01 /051 W

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R 262220 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1874

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

S E C R E T MANAGUA 2903

LIMDIS

EO 11652: XGDS (1)

TAGS: PFOR ES HO GT NU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ARANA'S VISIT TO SAN SALVADOR

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2350

1. DURING PERSONAL LUNCHEON WITH GENERAL SOMOZA ON JUNE 22, HE ADVISED ME THAT GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT ARANA HAD RECENTLY VISITED SAN SALVADOR AND INDICATED THAT THIS VISIT HAD GROWN OUT OF A DISCUSSION THAT HE (SOMOZA) HAD WITH EL SALVADORIAN PRESIDENT MOLINA REGARDING SOME POSSIBLE CONCERN RELATIVE TO THE CAMPESIONS ILLEGALLY OCCUPYING LAND IN HONDURAS. APPARENTLY, SOMOZA AND MOLINA AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE ARANA SUGGEST TO LOPEZ IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION THAT THIS COULD BE A DISTURBING EXAMPLE WHICH COULD CREATE A DIFFICULT PRECEDENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA. ACCORDING TO SOMOZA, MOLINA DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH ARANA AND ARANA WENT TO HONDURAS AND EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ REGARDING THESE ILLEGAL LAND OCCUPATIONS AND THEN PROCEEDED TO SAN SALVADOR TO REPORT TO MOLINA. IT WAS FURTHER AGREED, ACCORDING TO SOMOZA, DURING HIS DISCUSSION WITH MOLINA THAT HE (SOMOZA) WOULD HAVE A GENERAL
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TALK WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ AS SOON AS SOMOZA RETURNS FROM HIS VISIT FROM THE UNITED STATES SOMETIME AFTER JULY 3.

2. FROM THE CONVERSATION I DID NOT GATHER FROM SOMOZA THAT THERE WAS ANY CONCERN WHATEVER ON THE PART OF EITHER MOLINA OR LOPEZ REGARDING ANY PROSPECTIVE RENEWED ARMED DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS. SOMOZA APPEARED OF THE OPINION THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ' POSITION IN HONDURAS IS STABLE, BUT GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT LOPEZ WAS TAKING HIS TASK AS SERIOUSLY AS HE FELT IT WAS NECESSARY UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. SHELTON

SECRET

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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To: ARA
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